

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Budget Committee of College Council

Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2020

Present: M. F. Cairol (Vice President for Administration and Finance), Renata Budny (Chair), Rosa Abreu (Sec.), Anthony Sena, Hon Teo, Davis Douglas, Yu Wang, Concetta Mannella, Abigail Thomas

Absent: Robert Leston (excused)

Call to order made by chair Renata Budny

A quorum was achieved with (8) out of (9) voting members present. Official meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Renata welcomed new members to the Committee, Prof. Concetta Mannella and Abigail Thomas, student representative.

Meeting minutes for September 1, 2020 were approved by the committee.

The chair asked for feedback on the NY Post article emailed prior to the meeting. "SUNY campuses prepare for 25 percent cut in state aid amid pandemic". The takeaway was due to the pandemic there is lower funding combined with lower enrollment and the colleges are looking at losses in revenues.

Budget still hasn't been released.

Update on Budget Report to UFS from September 22, 2020 submitted by N. Benton and J. Verzani:

CUNY budget cycle typically follows the city and state budgeting announcements and starts in June with the board's vote on campuses allocation for the next fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30.

FEDERAL FUNDS

- CARES funds total allocation to CUNY Colleges, \$236,955,656.00
- CARES funds total allocation to CUNY Students min allocation \$118,477,830.00,
- \$135M has not been distributed, CUNY received approval from state for fund distribution but has held off with moving forward with plan where supposedly 1/3 of funds will be distributed to colleges to meet costs and 2/3 to students presumably to spend on tuition and residence halls.
- CARES funds allocation for NYCCT was at \$16,209,328.00, split between Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and Institutional Portion at the other half

STATE FUNDS

However, 2020-2021 is very different

- While making passing budget declaration around April 1, the state reserved the right to make adjustments on April 30, June 30, and December 30, 2020.
- State announced that if federal funding will not be issued, the cuts will be instituted
- Initially the cuts were anticipated at 10-14%, in April they went up to about 24%

CITY FUNDS

- Funding of Community Colleges was significantly reduced
- Reduction of ASAP funding took place and later some funding was restored. Impact on ASAP is not clear
- The City requested direct funding or a loan from the state otherwise would have to dismiss 22,000 employees. Supposedly, CUNY was not on the list of agencies where layoff would be requested
- Community Colleges are facing devastating year and Senior Colleges picture is not year clear
- Enrollment will play a significant role

FUNDS

- *CUNY serves 275,000 degree-seeking students whose median household income is about \$40,000 a year; 38 percent are from families earning less than \$20,000. Nearly half work while in school, and many have found their jobs and incomes eliminated or drastically reduced during the pandemic — exacerbating financial pressures and challenges including food and housing insecurity and lack of access to health care. (Source: <https://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2020/08/05/cuny-chancellors-emergency-relief-fund-to-aid-students-impacted-by-covid-19-pandemic-grows-by-70-percent-since-april-launch/>)*
- State distributed 80% of last year's monthly allocations to CUNY even though in 2018-2019 PS regular and adjunct cost were already at 87.2%. Since then adjunct costs increased 20% creating even deeper gap (about 35% shortfall). In Summer months the allocation was sufficient to cover payroll as adjunct instructions were less. 80% is insufficient to cover payroll costs
- Request was made to the State to raise tuition \$250, state agreed on \$200 tuition increase for 2020-2021, in the past tuition increases were covered by financial aid but now we are absorbing the top gap which we need to make a difference
- PSC filed a lawsuit that CARES funds had obligation to protect personnel from being let go and to cover salaries
- Hiring freezes were put in place with exceptions reviewed by a vacancy review board
- No full-time personnel were let go; however, part-time personnel are different matter. In some colleges significant number of PT faculty were not reappointed, class sections have been consolidated and class sizes increased.
- Speculations are made on contingencies (actions generated by fiscal scenarios) not discussed with faculty which may include early retirement buyouts, furloughs, gradual deferral of salary payments (deferring a week or two of payroll until retirement) which would require union agreement, raising tuition and adding wellness fee

The University \$32 million reserve is down from \$35 million. Community Colleges reserves is down by \$6 million.

Enrollment is flat to last year.

\$200 tuition increase will provide \$24 million revenue for the colleges.

Current tuition cost for CUNY is \$6,600 per academic year.

CUNY

Central Office is increasing mental health aid due to pandemic. It is estimated that 63,000 students are currently using mental health services.

Government relief aid to CUNY was close to \$250 million dollars, about \$114 million was use for student aid relief and \$132 million, a part of the University 2020 budget still hasn't been released by the NY State.

Current state of CityTech

The expenses incurred of \$200K for COVID related expenses are awaiting a refund from Central office.

FTEs-CityTech

We ended with 21 less full-time faculty, 18 less faculty support staff, 12 academic support staff. A few more helpdesk support staff were hired.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

Submitted by Rosa Abreu, Secretary, 2020/10/12